

August 22, 1966

Dr. Peter Medawar
National Institute for Medical Research
The Ridgway
Mill Hill
London, N.W. 7, England

Dear Peter:

In the last few months, I have been interested in a clinical study of "large babies", including the macrosomia of parental diabetes. This is in collaboration with a pediatrician here, Dr. Marguerite Kirsch. I hope it will, somehow, not be too long before seeing you again, and I will wait for that to give you a delayed explanation.

Meanwhile, could you help me locate a Dr. P. Henderson referred to in Ministry of Health Report No. 99 (1959) (SoO. Code No. 32-195-99) for a Committee on Standards of Normal Weight in Infancy. My purpose is to ask him about some details of that study not summarized in the published report, particularly:

1. A breakdown by social class and birth rank of the incidence of heavy babies— 9-10, and 10 lbs or more respectively.
2. The distribution of attained weight ~~at~~ 1 year by birth weight class. I stress distribution as a skewing for the extreme birth weights would be particularly interesting.

Perhaps the most amusing bit of news I could offer you is that I've started contributing a weekly newspaper column on the questions of human impact on biology for the Washington Post. This may end up being syndicated more widely, perhaps even in England. I guess this stems directly from that Ciba symposium in 1962 as a partial answer to the challenges about public education brought up there. Sometime if you'd care to use this channel for expressing some viewpoint you feel keenly about (and especially if it is in disagreement with my own) please let me know.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg,
Professor of Genetics

JL/gem

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